

# GAME FACE

cleveland indians program

an official team publication

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OMAR  
ON BASEBALL...



Photo: Gregory Drezdson





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## PUBLICATION ORDERS

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## CREDITS

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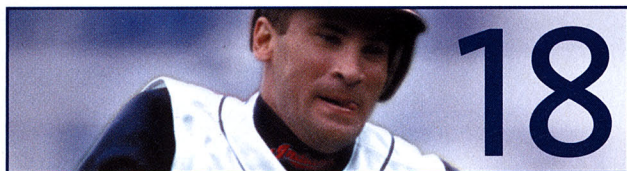


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

### OMAR ON BASEBALL... *by Jim Ingraham*

With a career in professional baseball that stretches back 20 years, 13 of those were spent in the Major Leagues where he has played in 1,990 regular season games, 57 Post Season games, including two World Series and three All-Star Games, Omar Vizquel has, when it comes to baseball, pretty much been there, done that!



### COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The Cleveland Indians are proud to serve the Northeast Ohio community by providing a variety of educational, recreational, and humanitarian programs for Tribe fans of all ages. Each program is designed to help improve the quality of life for others, support youth to reach their full potential, and foster self-confidence. We embrace the opportunity to be a responsible corporate citizen serving Greater Cleveland communities.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

### MARK SHAPIRO Q & A *by Jim Ingraham*

Now entering his third season as the Indians' general manager, Mark Shapiro continues to address the challenge of returning the Indians to their recent glory days of the 1990s. In this interview, Shapiro assesses how the rebuilding of the franchise is progressing, and his expectations for the team in the coming year.



### CLEVELAND INDIANS CHARITIES (CIC)

Cleveland Indians Charities (CIC), the charitable arm of the Cleveland Indians, was established in 1989 to make a positive contribution to the quality of life for thousands of Northeast Ohio youth by providing educational and recreational opportunities. Since 1989, CIC has donated more than \$4 million to youth-oriented agencies and organizations of Northeast Ohio.



### WHAT SAY THE STARS FOR TRIBE STARS?

*by Andrea Mallis*

Just for fun, we hope you enjoy this entertaining celestial glimpse at what the stars hold for our resourceful Aries Rams and industrious Taurus the Bull Tribe members.

### ALSO INSIDE GAME FACE — FULL PAGE PHOTOS OF YOUR CLEVELAND INDIANS!

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Photo: Gregory Drezdron



### WELCOME BACK TRIBE FANS!

We're looking forward to a very exciting season and are thrilled that you're here cheering on our Indians! This year is full of promise and hope, not only on the field but off the field as well. In each issue of the Indians *Game Face* Program, I'll highlight non-profit organizations in our community that the Indians Wives' Association proudly support.

I'm happy to spotlight Providence House, Inc., a crisis nursery for children ages 0-5 yrs. Founded in 1981 by Sister Hope Greener, Providence House, Inc., located in Ohio City, is Ohio's first and only licensed crisis nursery for infants and toddlers and is a non-profit, non-denominational ministry. Providence House is completely funded through the generosity of private individuals, companies, and foundations.

Eric and I have been to Providence House multiple times, and have witnessed the wonder of this organization. The incredible, dedicated staff takes in children facing crisis situations such as abuse, abandonment, neglect, and homelessness. They welcome defenseless children into a "home like" facility to nurture them medically and emotionally, while providing an environment where children feel safe and loved. The Providence House works with over 40 organizations in an attempt to resolve the crisis at home, thereby returning children to a safe family environment.

We've been truly touched and amazed at the services offered to the children and families of Northeastern Ohio, and knew immediately this was an organization with which we would soon become involved.

One of the many ways Providence House raises funds and awareness is through fund-raising events, such as the 23rd Annual Lunch for the Babies on Wednesday, April 21 at The Cleveland Renaissance Hotel. Emceed by our very own coach, broadcaster, and former Indians Gold Glove Centerfielder Rick Manning. Special guest speaker will be Indians manager, and my husband, Eric Wedge. A silent and live auction is on the agenda, with fantastic prizes. Tickets are on sale now, and I urge you to call and join us for lunch. Your support will be greatly appreciated, and not only will this be a great day for the children of Providence House, but it will be an inspiration for all who attend.

Visit their website at [provhouse.org](http://provhouse.org) or call 216.651.5982 for details.

**GO TRIBE!**

*Kate Wedge*



# 22

**ERIC WEDGE**

Named manager of the Cleveland Indians on October 29, 2002, to lead Phase II of the franchise's Blueprint for Success.

*Eric Wedge*

AGE: 36, BORN JAN. 27, 1968  
IN FORT WAYNE, IN

POSITION: MANAGER  
B-T: R-R HT: 6'3" WT: 215



# 20

RONNIE  
BELLARD

AGE: 29, BORN APRIL 7, 1975  
IN BRONX, NY

POSITION: INFILDER  
B-T: R-R HT: 5'8" WT: 197



*Ronnie Bellard*



RAFAEL BETANCOURT

63

AGE: 28, BORN APRIL 29, 1975  
IN CUMANÁ, VENEZUELA

POSITION: PITCHER  
B-T: R-R HT: 6'2" WT: 190



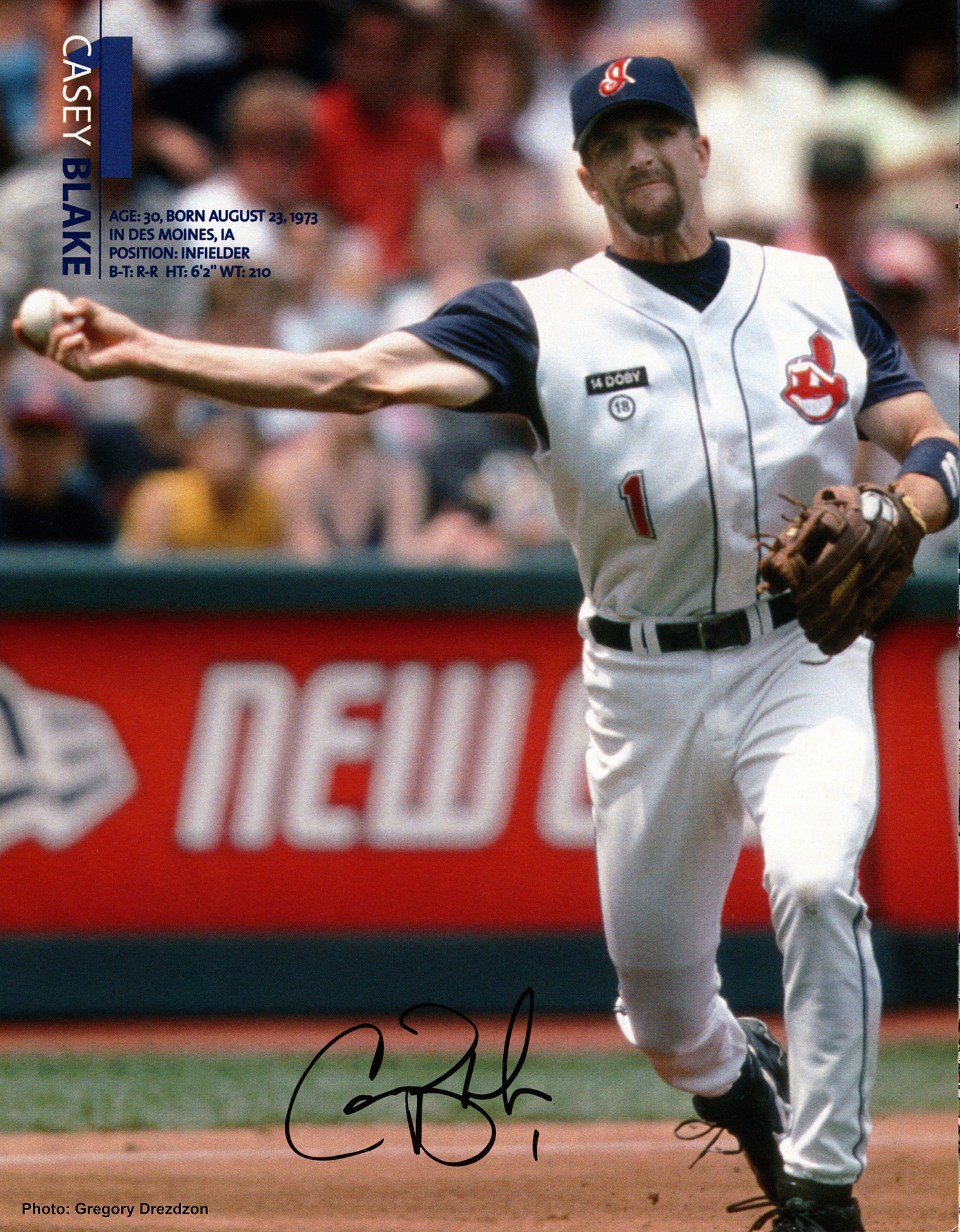
Rafael Betancourt  
#63

Photo: Gregory Drezdson



CASEY  
BLAKE

AGE: 30, BORN AUGUST 23, 1973  
IN DES MOINES, IA  
POSITION: INFILDER  
B-T: R-R HT: 6'2" WT: 210





## OMAR VIZQUEL

With a career in professional baseball that stretches back 20 years, 13 of those were spent in the Major Leagues where he has played in 1,990 regular season games, 57 Post Season games, including two World Series and three All-Star Games, Omar Vizquel has, when it comes to baseball, pretty much been there, done that!

**THE INDIANS' 36-YEAR-OLD SHORTSTOP HAS SEEN A LOT IN HIS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER. IN THE FOLLOWING INTERVIEW, VIZQUEL OFFERS HIS VIEWS ON A WIDE RANGE OF BASEBALL TOPICS.**

# OMAR ON BASEBALL...

by Jim Ingraham

photo: Gregory Drezdson



**Q: If you were Baseball Commissioner for a day, what would you change about the game?**

A: (laughing, Omar answers...) I would make a rule that we can have a coach behind second base. We already have coaches at first and third. We should have a coach at second base to keep us aware of what's going on around us. And he could steal the signs from the catcher, and flash them to the hitter. I think that would make the game more interesting, don't you?

**Q: What's the hardest play for a shortstop to make?**

A: The one going into the hole, between third and short. Because all your momentum is going in that direction, but then you have to stop and make a real accurate throw to first base. There are different ways to do it. (Derek) Jeter uses that jump-and-throw. Some other guys use the pop-up slide-and-throw.

**Q: If you were manager of a team, and there were two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, and you needed one hit to win the World Series, who would you want as the hitter?**

A: Ichiro Suzuki. Because I know he would make contact, he doesn't strike out, and he can make so many plays close at first because of his speed.

**Q: In that same situation, if you needed to get one out to win the World Series, which pitcher would you pick to get that out?**

A: Pedro Martinez.

**Q: What's the hardest pitch for a hitter to hit?**

A: A split-fingered fastball. Because the ball dives, and if you do a regular swing, you're going to hit a ground ball, so you have to take a different approach to hit that pitch. You've got to do like a golf swing, with a slight uppercut, to hit it well.

**Q: What ballpark has the best infield playing surface?**

A: I love the one in Baltimore, and the one in Chicago, the White Sox' field. Those are the two best.

**Q: How do you judge an infield playing surface? What makes a good one?**

A: The dirt is soft, and the ball never takes a bad hop. The ball always takes two hops to you, every time.

**Q: Do you prefer playing on grass or artificial turf?**

A: I love grass.

**Q: Most infielders would probably prefer turf, because there are never any bad hops.**

A: Yeah, it's easier on turf, but I never really liked it.

**Q: Who has the best uniforms in baseball? The ones you like the most?**

A: I don't know if it's the combination of colors, but I really like the Pittsburgh Pirates' uniforms. Those are very nice. And I used to like the old Houston Astros uniforms with the rainbow colors on the shirts.

**Q: If you designed a uniform, what features would you like to see in it?**

A: I would put the uniform number on the pants. I remember the White Sox used to wear those a really long time ago. And they looked pretty cool. So, I would put a number up high on the pants leg. And I also like a sleeveless uniform top.

**Q: Who is one of the most underrated players in baseball, in your opinion? A guy who doesn't get a lot of publicity, but is a really good player?**

A: I always thought that Edgar Martinez never got the recognition he deserved. He's an awesome hitter, and people don't talk much about him, because he's a DH. But he is awesome—a really outstanding player.

Photo: Gregory Drezdon

**Q: Who is the toughest pitcher you ever faced?**

A: Pedro. Just the way he pitches—because he really pitches. It's not like he can dominate a game with just one pitch. He just throws a bunch of stuff to get you out.





Photo: Gregory Drezdson

**Q: What's your favorite ballpark to visit?**

A: I like Camden Yards in Baltimore. The infield is great. You have a great baseball atmosphere. People are right on top of you.

**Q: What's your favorite city to visit?**

A: I like Toronto. It's great. They have a lot of restaurants, arts, and music places. Good museums. There's a lot to do there. I don't like the ballpark much, but it's my favorite city to visit.

**Q: In your opinion, what is the most important quality necessary to be a good manager?**

A: To be a good manager you have to earn respect from the players.

**Q: How does a manager do that?**

A: By first respecting you as a player, and then respecting everything else that is around him. I think Eric Wedge is a great manager because of that. He doesn't let too many things get away from anybody. He doesn't care how much money you make, he treats everybody equally. And that's the way it's supposed to be.

**Q: Do you think a good manager can win a certain number of games for his team, or that a bad manager can lose some games?**

A: I think a good manager has a chance to win some games because of the moves he makes. I really believe that. Sometimes it comes down to one play, and the manager has to have the guts to make the right move. That can be the difference between winning and losing.

**Q: If someone says to you that a player "is a good teammate," what does that mean to you? What's your definition of a good teammate?**

A: A good teammate is someone who respects himself as a player. He's a team player, of course. He does everything to make other people happy, not just himself.

**Q: Who were some of your favorite teammates?**

A: Carlos Baerga. I really liked Eddie Murray as a teammate. And Orel Hershisier. And Harold Reynolds, when I was with Seattle.

**Q: Hershisier is a pitcher. Isn't that a little more difficult for a pitcher who's only out there every fifth day?**

A: It's hard for a pitcher to be a good leader, but Hershisier was great about that. He would really watch the game, and he was one of the few pitchers who would talk to the hitters about hitting.

**Q: Who was the funniest teammate you've ever had?**

A: Wayne Kirby. And Casey Candaele. Those two guys made me laugh a lot.

**Q: Who was the best dresser among your teammates besides yourself, of course.**

A: I'm a terrible dresser—I've got my own style. But best dresser, I'd say Ellis Burks. He dresses really nice. He spends big bucks on clothes. Matt Lawton is dressing really nice this year.

**Q: Who is the hardest slider into second base?**

A: When I first made it to the big leagues, I remember the Oakland A's really came in hard on you. I remember Dave Parker took me out one time, and I rolled over three times. Once you establish yourself in the big leagues, there aren't too many guys that can come in hard on you. But before, there were a lot of guys that came in hard. Parker. Jose Canseco came in pretty hard, early in his career. I got hurt one time (a knee injury) because Pudge Rodriguez slid over the top of the bag. But that wasn't really coming in hard...that was just a bad slide.

**Q: Who is the best base runner in the league?**

A: I think Carlos Beltran of Kansas City. He would also be a guy I would say is very underrated as a player. He is amazing. He's so fast and reacts so quickly. He sees the ball and the whole field. He's awesome.

**Q: What player would you pay money to watch play?**

A: Ichiro Suzuki. Because I like how he runs, and he has a good arm. He does everything. I don't know if you would say that about Alex Rodriguez, because his game is mostly just power. But when you come into a ballpark, you're looking for something flashy, somebody who really catches your eye, and Ichiro is the type of player that you want to see.

**Q: Do you have any suggestions for speeding up baseball?**

A: I'd cut down the strikes and balls. Instead of getting four balls and three strikes, I'd make it three balls and two strikes. That would do it for sure. You'd have less time to think.

**Q: Is A-Rod going to the Yankees good for baseball or bad for baseball?**

A: I think it's bad for baseball because it doesn't give much hope to the other teams. The Yankees are fielding like an All-Star team, and it's hard for other teams to compete against that.

**Q: Do other players in the league get frustrated by all the players the Yankees sign?**

A: If you're on a contending team, yes. If you are contending, and you see the Yankees with that kind of lineup, I mean, Boston has to be devastated about that trade. They tried to get A-Rod, but couldn't. So how come the Yankees get him? It's not fair for them. So I do think it's bad for baseball. It's great for the Yankees. They are going to keep making their run for the World Series every year, and continue to make all that money.



# Every Sunday is **KIDS FUN DAY** at Jacobs Field!

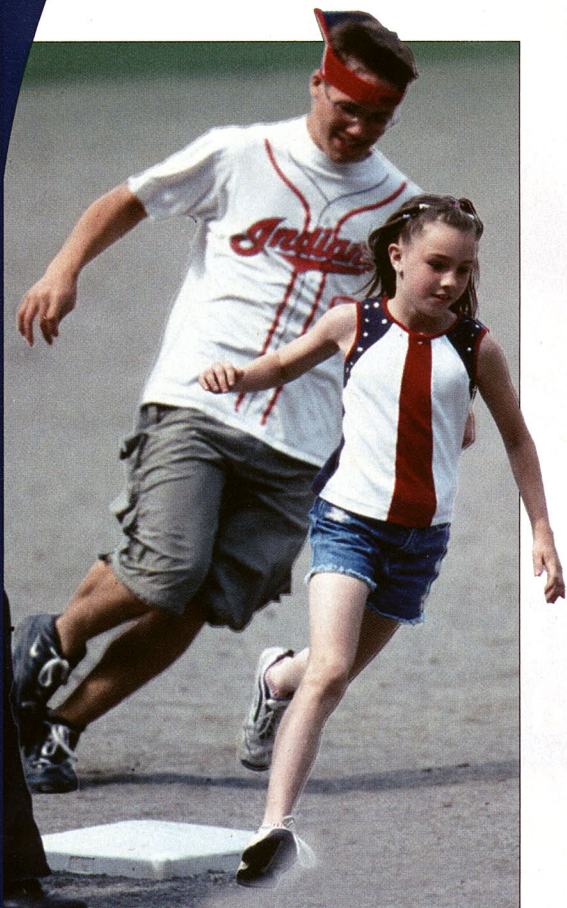


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

**HEY KIDS**, arrive early for pregame entertainment with lots of fun inside and outside the ballpark. Play whiffleball with Slider and his Fun Bunch on Gateway Plaza before the game...enjoy family activities, between-inning contests, and prizes galore during the game!

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Every Sunday **Kids Starting Lineup** gets underway as randomly selected kids are invited to "take the field at each position" prior to the Indians taking the field.

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Please call **216.420.HITS** or visit **Indians.com** for more information.

**I** want to run the bases!  
TM







BEN BROUSSARD

23

AGE: 27, BORN SEPT. 24, 1976  
IN BEAUMONT, TX

POSITION: INFILDER  
B-T: L-L HT: 6'2" WT: 220

*Ben Broussard*



JACK CRESSEND

27  
AGE: 28, BORN MAY 13, 1975  
IN NEW ORLEANS, LA

POSITION: PITCHER  
B-T: R-R HT: 6'1" WT: 185

*Jack Cressend*

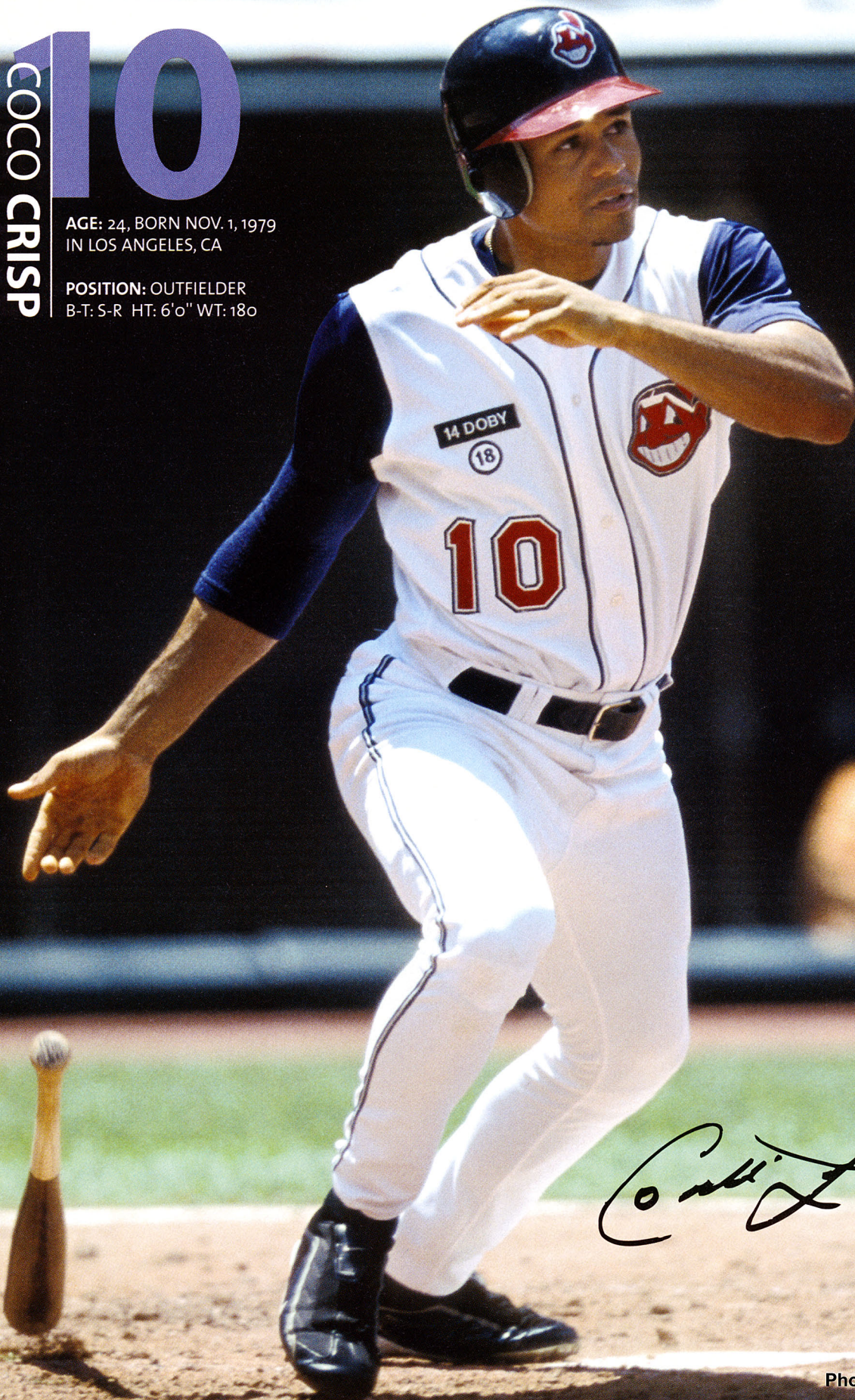




# COCO CRISP

AGE: 24, BORN NOV. 1, 1979  
IN LOS ANGELES, CA

POSITION: OUTFIELDER  
B-T: S-R HT: 6'0" WT: 180



*Coco Crisp*<sup>10</sup>

Photo: Gregory Drezdzon



AGE: 28, BORN DEC. 27, 1975  
IN ST. PETERSBURG, FL

POSITION: PITCHER  
B-T: R-R HT: 6'7" WT: 255

JEFF D'AMICO



*Jeff D'Amico*

Photo: Gregory Drezdson

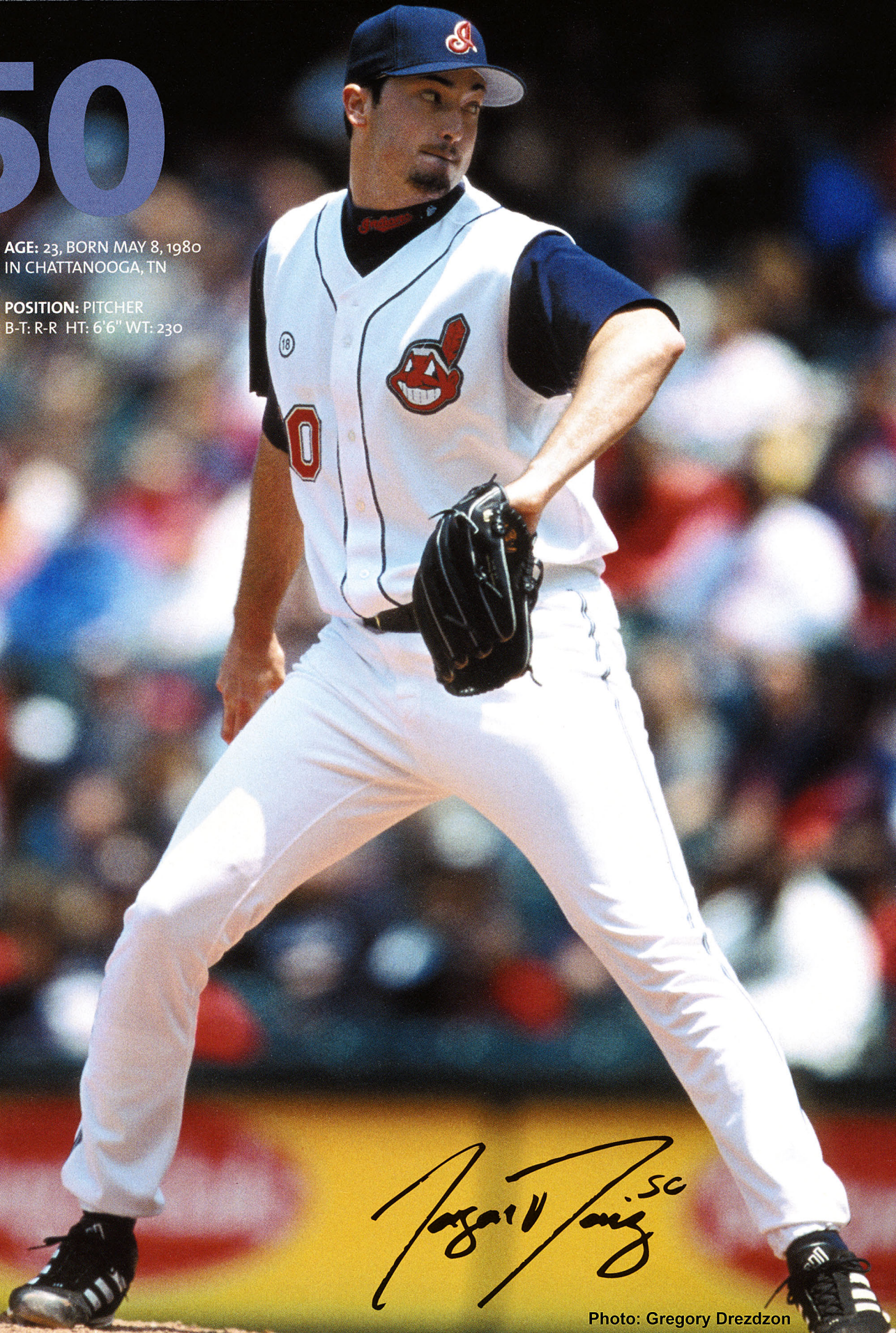


# 50

JASON  
DAVIS

AGE: 23, BORN MAY 8, 1980  
IN CHATTANOOGA, TN

POSITION: PITCHER  
B-T: R-R HT: 6'6" WT: 230



*Jason Davis*

Photo: Gregory Drezdson



# 49

CHAD DUBBIN

AGE: 26, BORN DEC. 3, 1977  
IN SPRING VALLEY, IL

POSITION: PITCHER  
B-T: R-R HT: 6'2" WT: 210

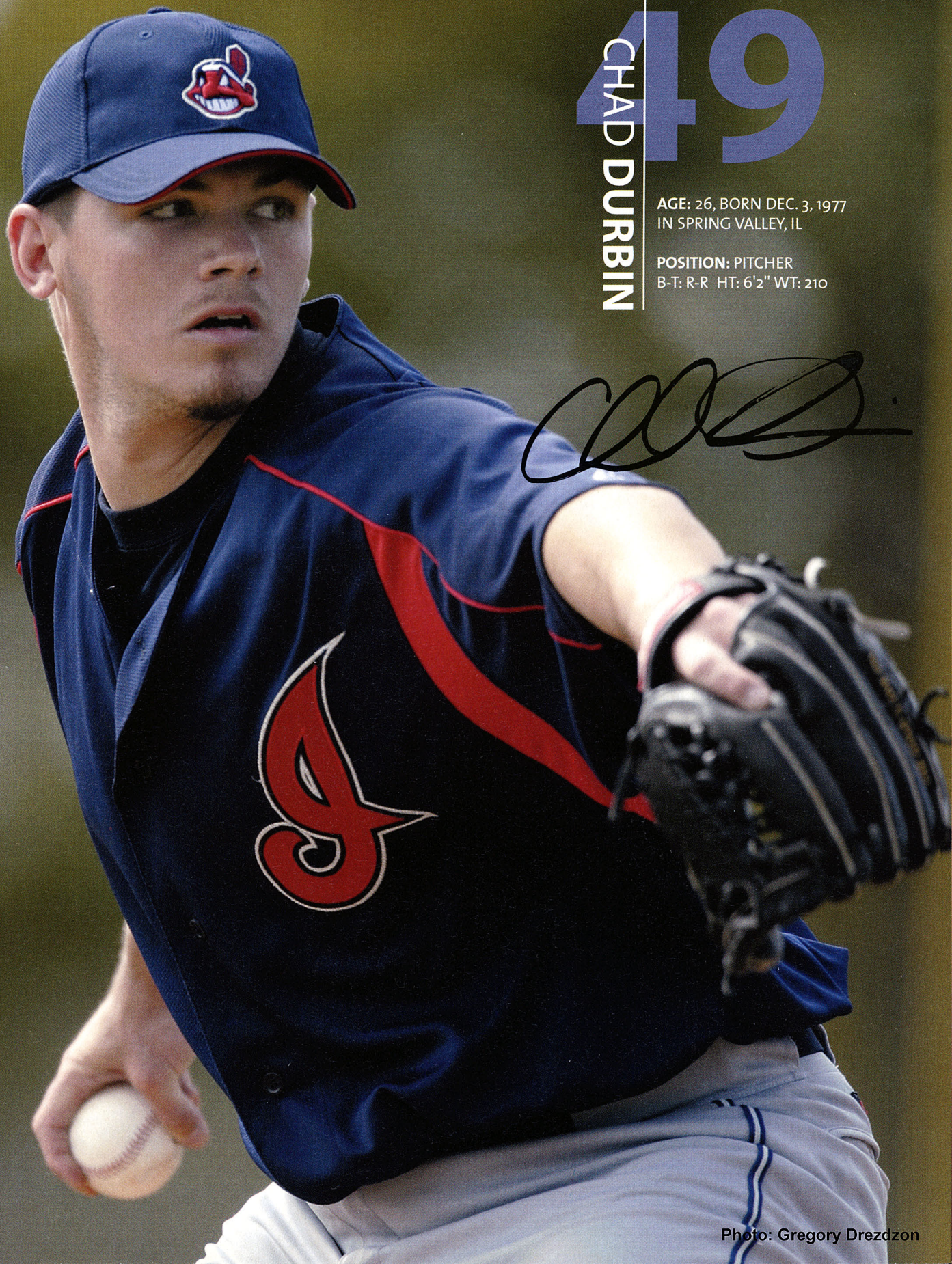


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**Photo: Gregory Drezdzon**



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



## WITH INDIANS GENERAL MANAGER MARK SHAPIRO

by Jim Ingraham

*Now entering his third season as the Indians' general manager, Mark Shapiro continues to address the challenge of returning the Indians to their recent glory days of the 1990s.*

*The rebuilding of the team, which began in the middle of the 2002 season with the trade of Bartolo*

*Colon to Montreal for three prospects, is starting to bear some fruit.*

*The Indians had some players begin to emerge last year, such as Jody Gerut, Jason Davis, Victor Martinez, and Cliff Lee. How many emerge in 2004 remains to be seen, but Shapiro and his staff*

*believe that the Indians are on an accelerated path toward returning to contention in the American League's Central Division.*

*In the following interview, Shapiro assesses how the rebuilding of the franchise is progressing, and his expectations for the team in the coming year:*

**Q:** How close did you come to accomplishing the goals you wanted to accomplish last season?

**A:** I look at where we are now compared to last year, and we are much further ahead in the process. We've done a ton of evaluation. We've identified some core players and filtered out the total number of potential core players. We've gotten our philosophy ingrained, and people understand it now.

**Q:** What was the most difficult part of the season for you last year?

**A:** There are still moments where it's extremely difficult to look at (Jacobs Field) not being full, and to look into people's eyes on the outside and not have them understand...or have the same level of confidence I have in where we are eventually going to get.

**Q:** The main difference from Spring Training this year and last year is what?

**A:** We're further along in the evaluation with some core players identified. We're further along in development. There are clearly guys that have taken huge steps in their development and they're starting to establish themselves. We've got a large part of our values and expectations and our culture in place that we just didn't have a year ago. So I look at all three things we wanted to accomplish last year—evaluation, development, and establishing these standards and expectations—and I think we made big strides in all of them.

**Q:** What's the most difficult part of rebuilding?

**A:** Losing.

**Q:** But that comes with it, right?

**A:** Yeah. That was clearly the hardest part for me because we are competitive internally, and we're doing it against the backdrop of having won so much. And part of our job is to provide a winning team for the city and its fans. But I think we're doing it exactly the way we should be doing it. Nobody has presented me a better alternative, given our set of circumstances. So I know we're doing the right thing, but the route to get there—even though we're taking the accelerated route—can't be rushed. At a certain point it's about development, and development requires being patient and consistent. That's the greatest challenge. Being patient. I know to get this done we have to be patient. And we have to be consistent. But it's a hard thing to do.

**Q:** Were there times last year, or will there be this year, when you'll have to remind yourself to be patient?

**A:** Yes. You constantly battle that dual side. Your natural competitiveness leads to impatience and the desire and knowledge that the only way the plan is going to work is if you stick to it.



**Q: How about Brandon Phillips?**

**A:** I am ultimately just as confident he's going to be a good Major League player. I believe that. I'm a little bit concerned. But the largest thing he needs to accomplish is to be accountable for his own performance, and if he does that he'll be able to make the right adjustments. I'm extremely confident in his athletic ability, his track record, and that he is a good person at heart. Because of those three things, my experience tells me that he's still going to be a good player.

**Q: It looks like the pitching is going to be the strength of the team. Is that by design?**

**A:** Yes. I think that pitching is an equalizer. You can have \$100 million payrolls, and those teams can still get beat by good pitching.

**Q: So the decisions you've made along the way have been made from that philosophy?**

**A:** Yeah, just a balanced position player team that's not dependent upon stars, and the best pitching we can humanly get.

**Q: Is there a team out there that you look at as an example of how you'd like to build or rebuild this team?**

**A:** I liked the Seattle team of two years ago. Not from a rebuilding standpoint, but from the type of team they had. They got rid of superstars and became even better. They had a bunch of good hitters. They played the game the right way. They played good defense. I think that's a realistic goal, to have a team like that. I like the Yankees of the mid-1990s when they were building the team not just on superstars, but with their own players primarily. Remember, they didn't have a guy hit over 30 home runs, which is not what I want. But those are two teams who played the game the right way. So maybe those two are the best examples.

**Q: What are your expectations for the team this year?**

**A:** I do expect us to win more games. I expect us to be more competitive. And I do think at some point between now and the end of the season, I have a firm hope and desire that we are going to be ready to transition into a contender. It may not be until the end of the season. I would be very disappointed if next off-season we aren't looking at a goal of contending for our division.

**Q: How much of that desire to be a contender is based on the division you're in, and how much of it is based on your ability to successfully rebuild?**

**A:** The division is definitely part of the plan. That's part of our competitive advantage. Some teams have \$100 million payrolls. Some teams have other things. We've got a division that helps us out.



Photos: Gregory Drezdson

**Q: Is there any one player that you're particularly intrigued by going into this season?**

**A:** I think Victor Martinez is going to have a breakout year, and establish himself clearly as a part of what we're doing. I think Cliff Lee has a chance to do the same thing. There are a few others, too. But those are the two guys I think could have really significant seasons.

**Get your mitts on these babies!**



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ALEX ESCOBAR

6

AGE: 25, BORN SEPT. 6, 1978  
IN VALENCIA, VENEZUELA

POSITION: OUTFIELDER  
B-T: R-R HT: 6'1" WT: 190

*Alex Escobar*

Photo: Gregory Drezdson



JODY GERUT

AGE: 26, BORN SEPT. 18, 1977  
IN ELMHURST, IL

POSITION: OUTFIELDER  
B-T: L-L HT: 6'0" WT: 190

9

Jody Gerut 9



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

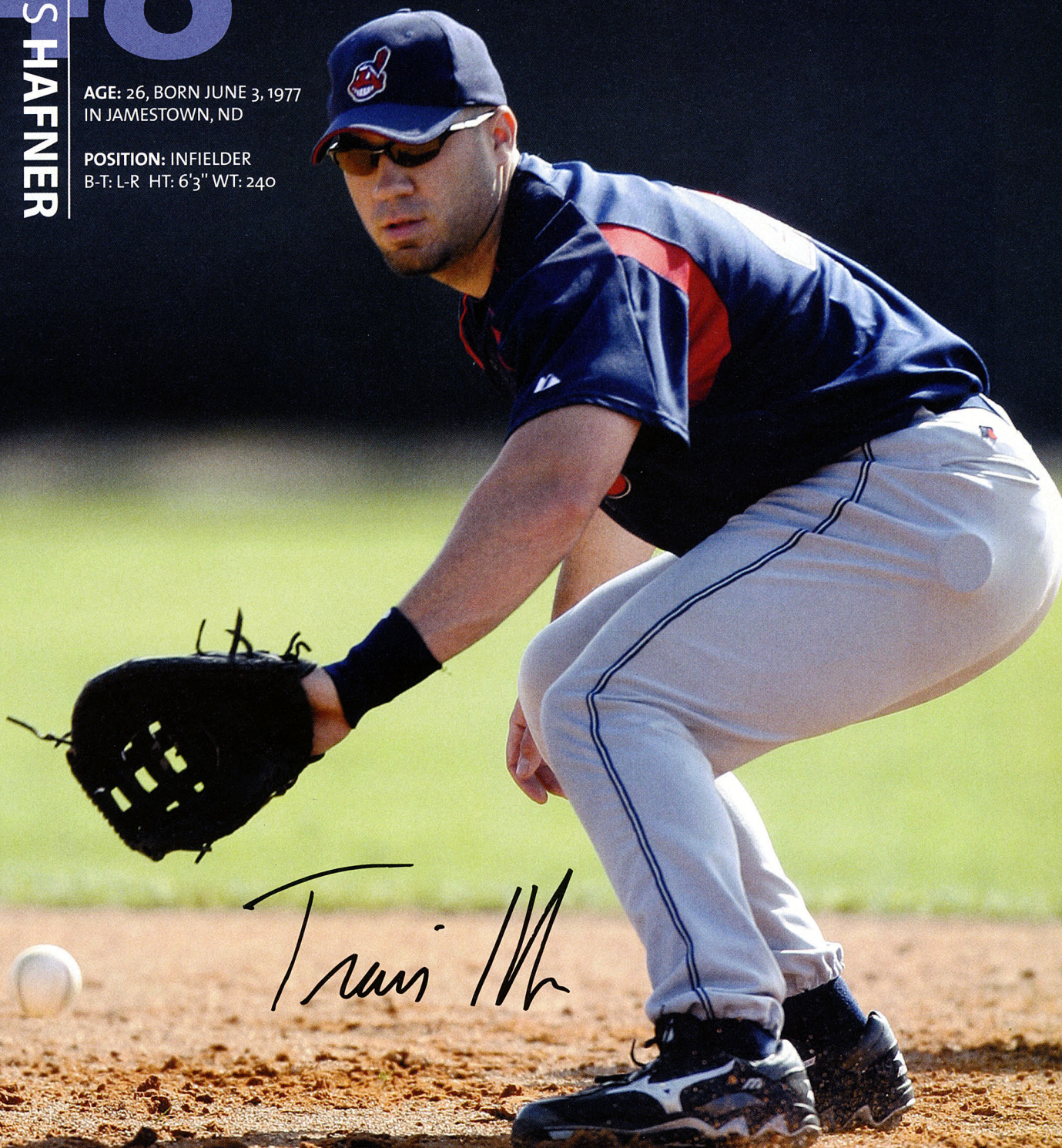


# 48

TRAVIS HAFNER

AGE: 26, BORN JUNE 3, 1977  
IN JAMESTOWN, ND

POSITION: INFILDER  
B-T: L-R HT: 6'3" WT: 240



*Travis Hafner*

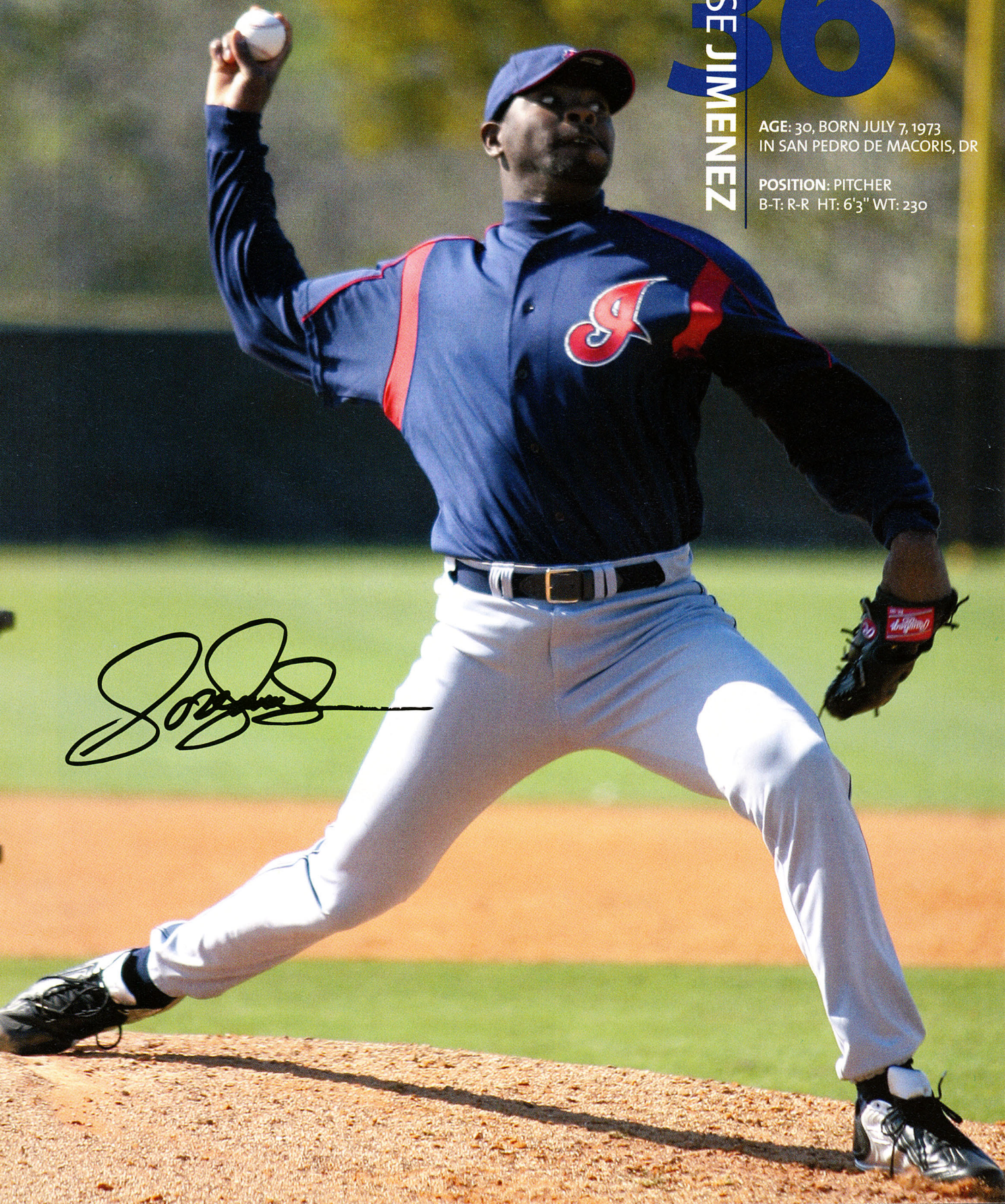


# 36

JOSE JIMENEZ

AGE: 30, BORN JULY 7, 1973  
IN SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS, DR

POSITION: PITCHER  
B-T: R-R HT: 6'3" WT: 230





TIM LAKER

15

AGE: 34, BORN NOV. 27, 1969  
ENCINO, CA

POSITION: CATCHER  
B-T: R-R HT: 6'3" WT: 225

*Tim Laker*

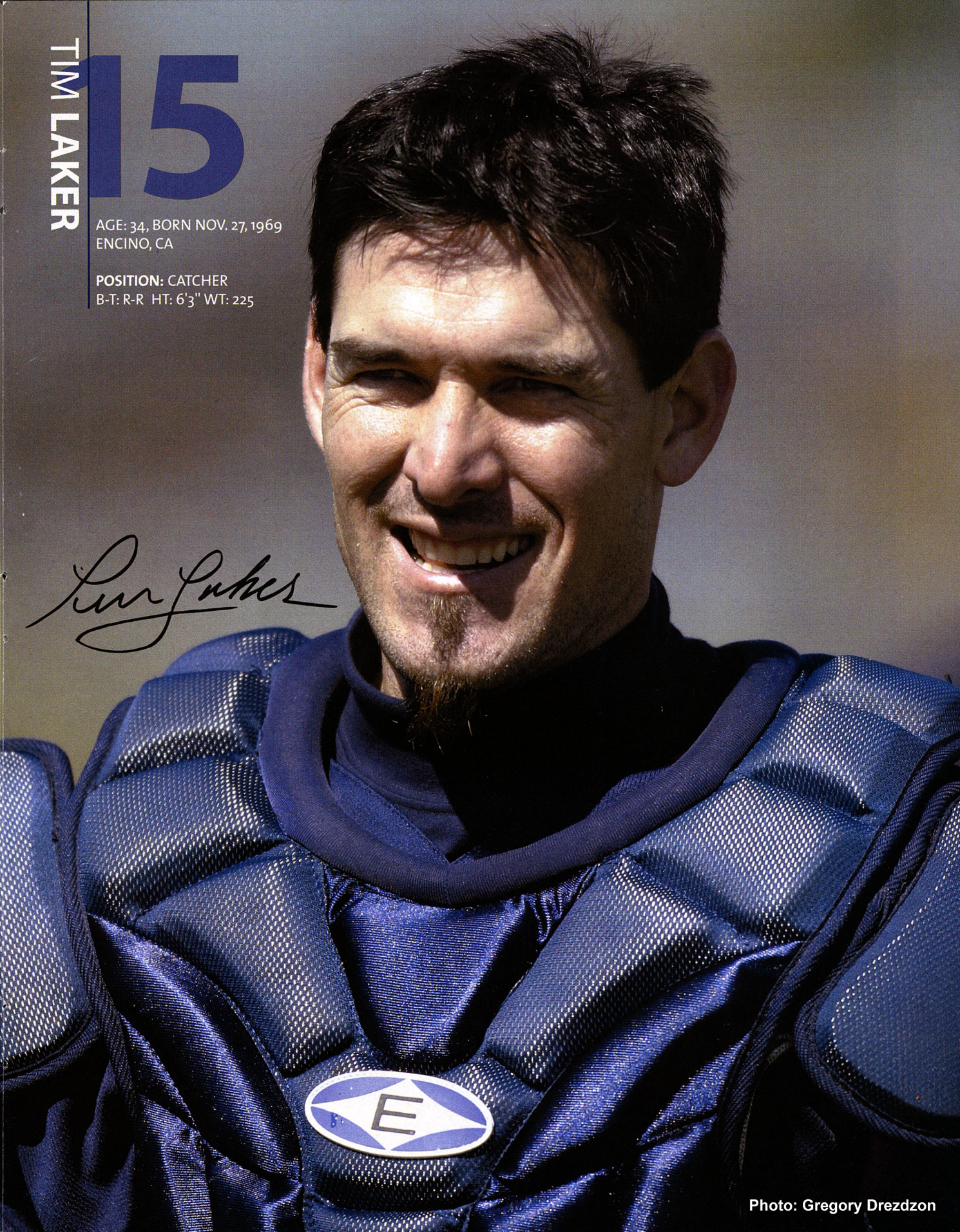


Photo: Gregory Drezdson





MATT LAWTON

11

AGE: 32, BORN NOV. 3, 1971  
IN GULFPORT, MS

POSITION: OUTFIELDER  
B-T: L-R HT: 5'10" WT: 195

*Matt Lawton*

Photo: Gregory Drezdson



# SLIDER™



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

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- Date of event
- Appearance time
- Location of appearance



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## CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC

**Monday, August 30**—This year's event is held in partnership with the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association. Participants spend the day golfing with Indians players, coaches, alumni and broadcasters at Quail Hollow. The event includes great gifts, prizes, breakfast, lunch, cocktail dinner party, live auction and more. Individual registration or teams of five golfers are available.

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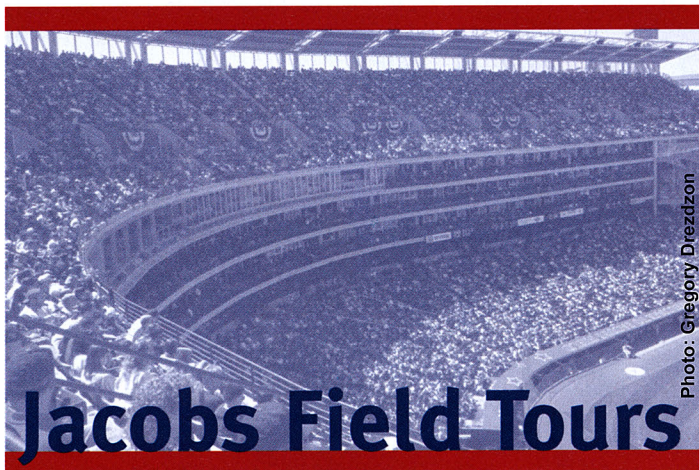


Photo: Gregory Drezdron

## Jacobs Field Tours

Jacobs Field tours include a visit to the Press Box, Bullpen, Club Lounge, Dugout, Batting Cages, and Party Suite. The Visitors Clubhouse is included in tours of Jacobs Field on select dates. (The tour route is subject to change.)

Tickets are \$6.50 for adults and \$4.50 for youths 14 and under and senior citizens 60 and over. A group rate is available at 1:00 PM each day. Tour tickets are available at any Indians Team Shop, at the Jacobs Field Main Box Office, at any Northern Ohio OfficeMax, or at indians.com. (The group rate is only available at the Jacobs Field Main Box Office.)

With support from  
**OfficeMax**

a special school tour program is also available in April, May, early June, and all of

September. Teachers will receive *Team Teacher*, a specially created, baseball-themed book of curriculum, when they book their class for a tour. Teachers interested in bringing their class to Jacobs Field for a field trip they'll never forget should call to plan ahead to book their date and time.

**For more information on Jacobs Field tours, call 216-420-4385.**

**APRIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER**—A LOT OF HISTORY HAS HAPPENED IN 10 YEARS AT THE CORNER OF EAST 9TH STREET AND CARNEGIE. TAKE A SNEAK PEEK BEHIND THE SCENES WITH A TOUR OF ONE OF BASEBALL'S GREATEST BALLPARKS. TOURS ARE AVAILABLE MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. SATURDAY TOURS ARE AVAILABLE WHEN THE TEAM IS ON THE ROAD. TOURS ACCOMMODATE UP TO 40 PEOPLE, LAST APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR, ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE, AND DEPART FROM THE JACOBS FIELD TEAM SHOP. STILL AND VIDEO CAMERAS ARE WELCOME.



## PEPSI CORPORATE HITTING CHALLENGE

**August 6-8**—Batter up for the ninth annual Pepsi Corporate Hitting Challenge! This unique event offers teams of nine batters and three alternates the chance to step up to the plate at Jacobs Field in a hitting tournament. Registration includes practice time in the batting cages, your name on the scoreboard, commemorative gift, prizes each round, and more. The 2003 tournament winner was Pepsi, with Key in second place.



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Photo: Gregory Drezdson

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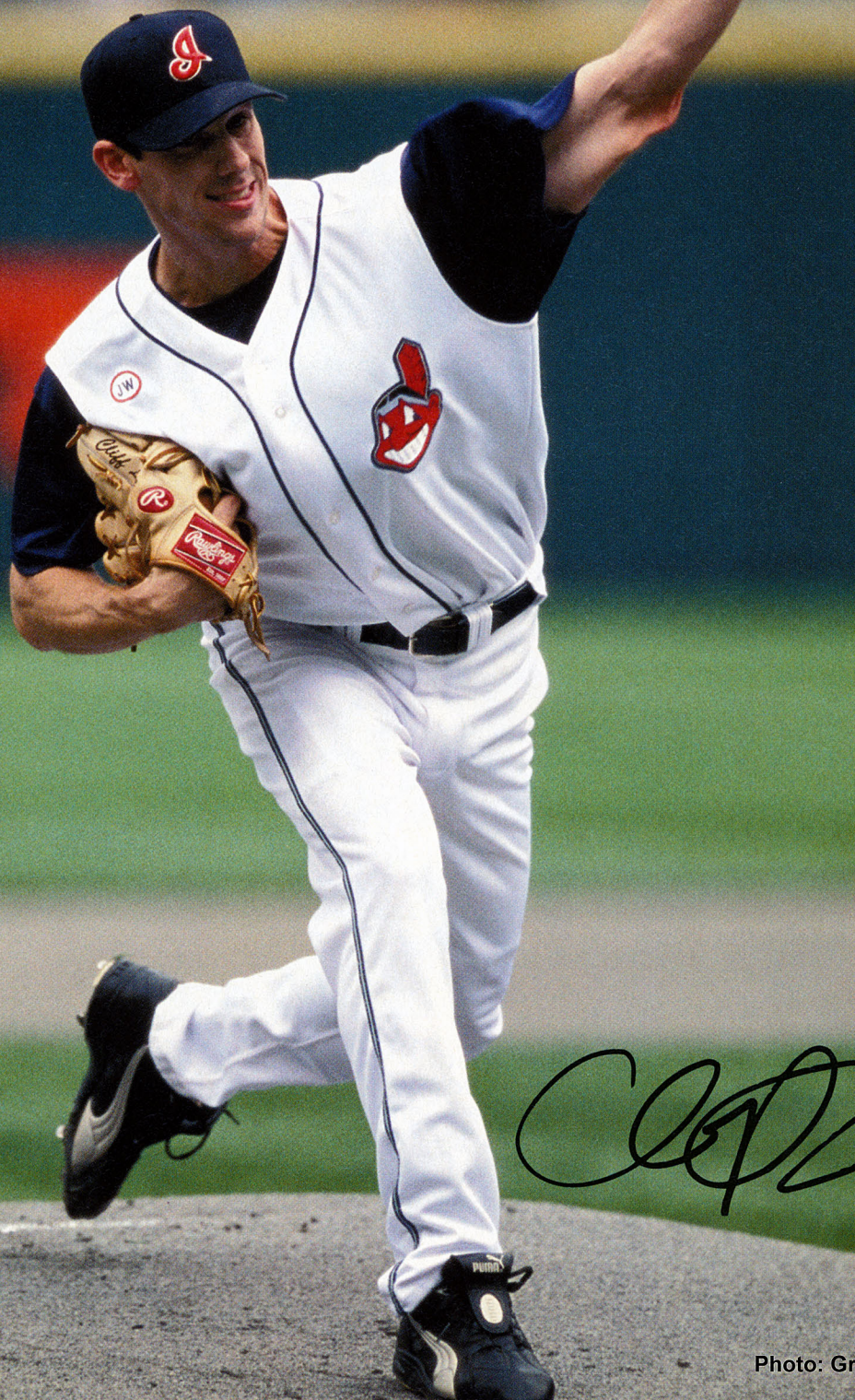
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CLIFF  
LEE

AGE: 25, BORN AUGUST 30, 1978  
IN BENTON, AR

POSITION: PITCHER  
B-T: L-L HT: 6'3" WT: 190



*Gregory Drezdson*

Photo: Gregory Drezdson



# WHAT ★ SAY THE STARS FOR TRIBE STARS?

by Andrea Mallis

*Just for fun, here's an entertaining celestial glimpse at what the stars hold for our resourceful Aries Rams and industrious Taurus the Bull Tribe members.*

Assertive fire sign Aries is the first of the zodiac, appearing during the promising rebirth of spring. Since their ruling planet is Mars, the planet of action, Aries is the stuff of heroes. Ardent Aries represents unbridled energy and enthusiasm, and usually manifests in outstanding athleticism. Aries possess a pioneering nature and are forceful and impulsive. Not one to shy away from competition, Aries is always ready to get in the game!

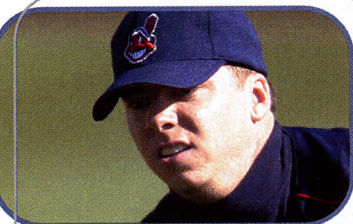
**Aries**

While Aries is out pioneering, Taurus is cultivating, using resources for practical purpose. Taurus is known for steadiness, dedication, and persistence. A determined earth sign that's slow to change, Taurus likes the good things in life, and they usually focus energy on acquiring material possessions. Deeply appreciative of the natural world, nature soothes their spirits, as do music, art, and rich food. Their temperament is like a mellow Ferdinand the Bull.

**Taurus**

## MICHAEL AUBREY

Gregory Drezdron



★ BORN APRIL 15,  
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Enthusiastic Aries Michael Aubrey is the Tribe's 2003 top draft pick. A left-handed hitting first baseman, he impressed the Indians by hitting .348 with a .551 slugging percentage in Class A Lake County. Blessed with strength of mind, will, and body, this season propels him closer to cherished aspirations. Aubrey continues to make steady progress, gaining favor with those in authority. Timing is tops, as this fearless adventurer makes exceptional use of opportunity.

## RONNIE BELLIARD

Gregory Drezdron

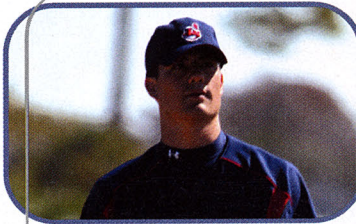


★ BORN APRIL 7,  
BRONX, NEW YORK

Another potent Aries and veteran middle infielder, Tribe newcomer Ronnie will be experiencing his Saturn return this season—a cycle of new beginnings that occurs at age 29. Exhibiting discipline and perseverance, Ronnie lets go of outworn attachments. With favorable Jupiter (planet of expansion) aspects, he benefits from the new work routines. This July begins a test phase for this rather anarchistic second baseman, who hit .345 against lefties. Dogged patience and a gritty approach eventually helps Ronnie to clench his best intents.

## JEREMY GUTHRIE

Gregory Drezdron

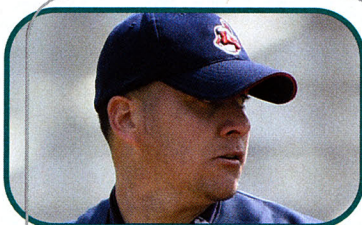


★ BORN APRIL 8,  
ROSEBURG, OREGON

An intense Aries warrior, this two-time Collegiate All-American pitcher was selected in the first round of the MLB draft. Powerful Mars in Aries bestows courage, robust durability, and a strong sense of competition. Fueled by a dazzling array of pitches, including a blazing fastball and sneaky slider, this promising rookie is carving out a role as a future starter. July is a demanding time, as he faces extra responsibilities and hard work. Fortitude pays off in the long run.



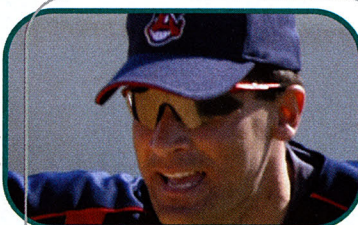
## RAFAEL BETANCOURT



BORN APRIL 29,  
CUMANA, VENEZUELA

A no-nonsense Taurus capable of moving mountains, 29-year-old Rafael is heading into his Saturn return, a cycle of new beginnings. Working long and hard to achieve objectives, steadfast Rafael also benefits from positive Jupiter aspects, drawing abundance to him. This pitcher is at the top of his game. Bolstered by the new level of maturity, he's raring to go, overcoming obstacles and successfully striking targets.

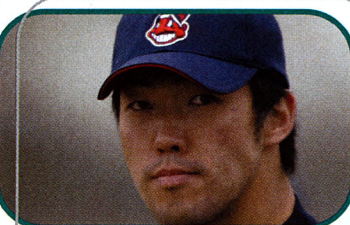
## OMAR VIZQUEL



BORN APRIL 24,  
CARACAS, VENEZUELA

Enduring Taurus Omar is the last tie to the Indians World Series teams of '95 and '97. Not only is he the consummate athlete, but Omar has a softer side as well—he's a wonderful painter. Starting the 2004 season, Omar's just 22 games shy of being the 15th shortstop in MLB history to appear in 2000 games. Coming off two knee surgeries last season, Omar is as scrappy as ever, and even more determined to make up for lost time.

## KAZUHITO TADANO



BORN APRIL 25,  
TOKYO, JAPAN

This high-powered Taurus was one of the top college pitchers in Japan. With Mars in swash-buckling Leo, he has energy to burn, plus a lion's share of charisma. Three planets in Virgo promise a stellar work ethic. Boasting a solid fastball and three quality secondary pitches, it's clear to see why the Indians like the talent of this indomitable Taurus. It should profit tenfold, as Kaz captures lightning in a bottle.

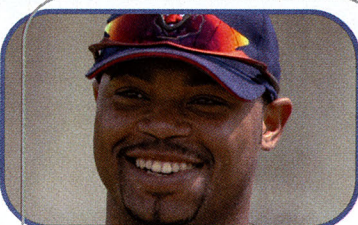
## LOU MERLONI



BORN APRIL 6,  
FRAMINGHAM, MA

Optimistic Aries infielder Lou enjoys working toward goals. Taking pride in doing a job well, ambitious Lou has no tolerance for laziness, and can be a hard-driving taskmaster. Adjusting to a new team, this former Red Sox, nicknamed "Loubird," joins the group effort. Aries can be brash, extremely gung-ho, and hot-tempered. In the month of June, expect gridlock to occur, as Saturn (planet of limitation) opposes his Mars (planet of energy).

## COREY SMITH

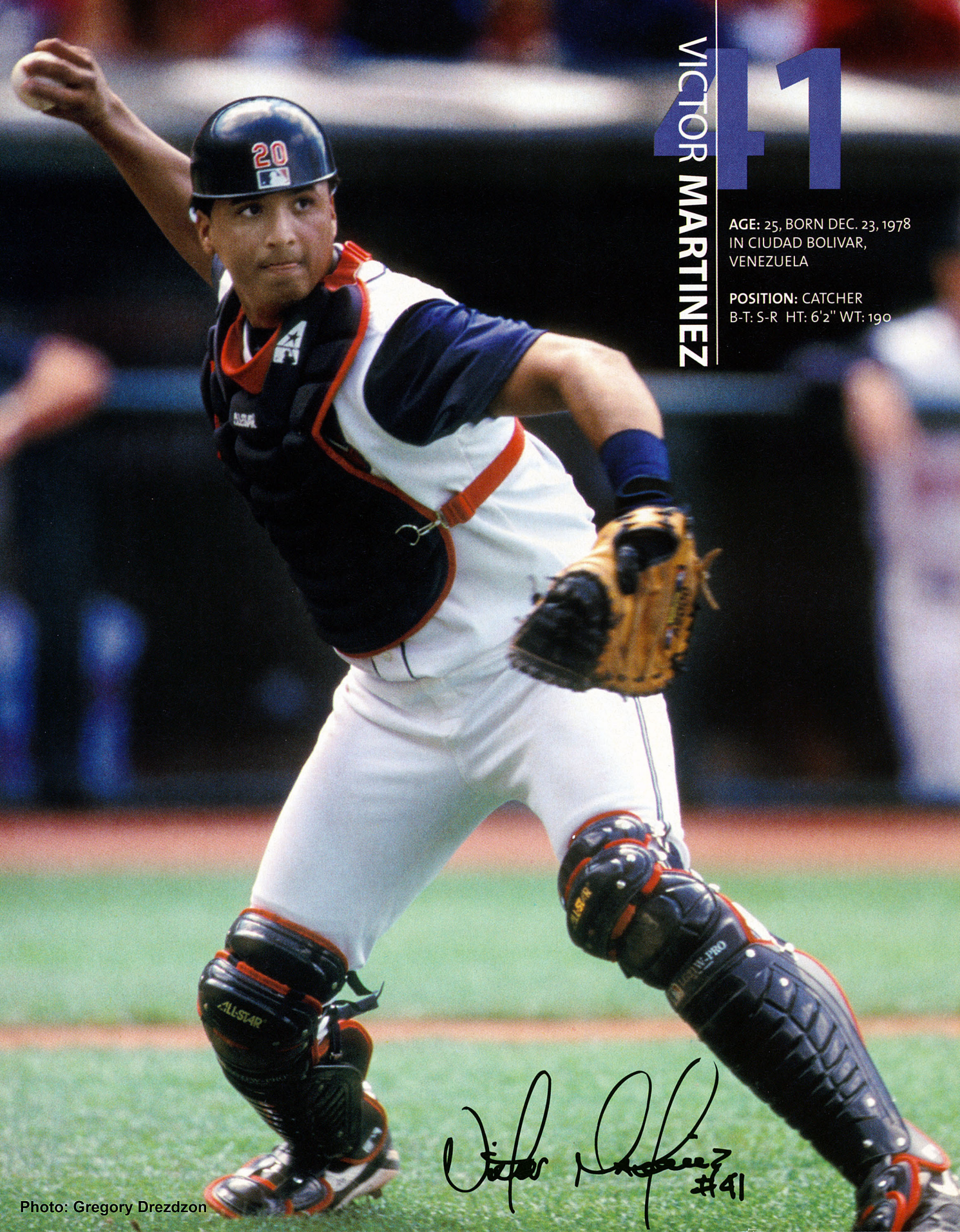


BORN APRIL 15,  
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

Powerful Aries Corey Smith is in a fortunate cycle, attracting necessary resources for his life path. Drafted in the first round of the 2000 draft, he's busy preparing his ascent, slowly and steadily climbing to the top. "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing well," is motivated Corey's mantra as he garners hard earned rewards. Whether infielder Corey is reaping or sowing, his professional life should flourish. Getting on with the business of making a place for himself, watch for purposeful Corey to break new ground at the hot corner.

**Andrea Mallis** is a sports astrologer and writer who's appeared on ESPN SportsCenter, *Baseball Tonight*, *Cold Pizza*, and *ESPN All Night Radio*. Andrea also contributes articles to most Major League Baseball magazines, [mlb.com](http://mlb.com), [espn.com](http://espn.com), and recently penned a Spring Training article for the *Cleveland Indians Game Face Program*. To let Andrea guide you with your game, check out [virgoinservice.com](http://virgoinservice.com).





VICTOR MARTINEZ

41

AGE: 25, BORN DEC. 23, 1978  
IN CIUDAD BOLIVAR,  
VENEZUELA

POSITION: CATCHER  
B-T: S-R HT: 6'2" WT: 190

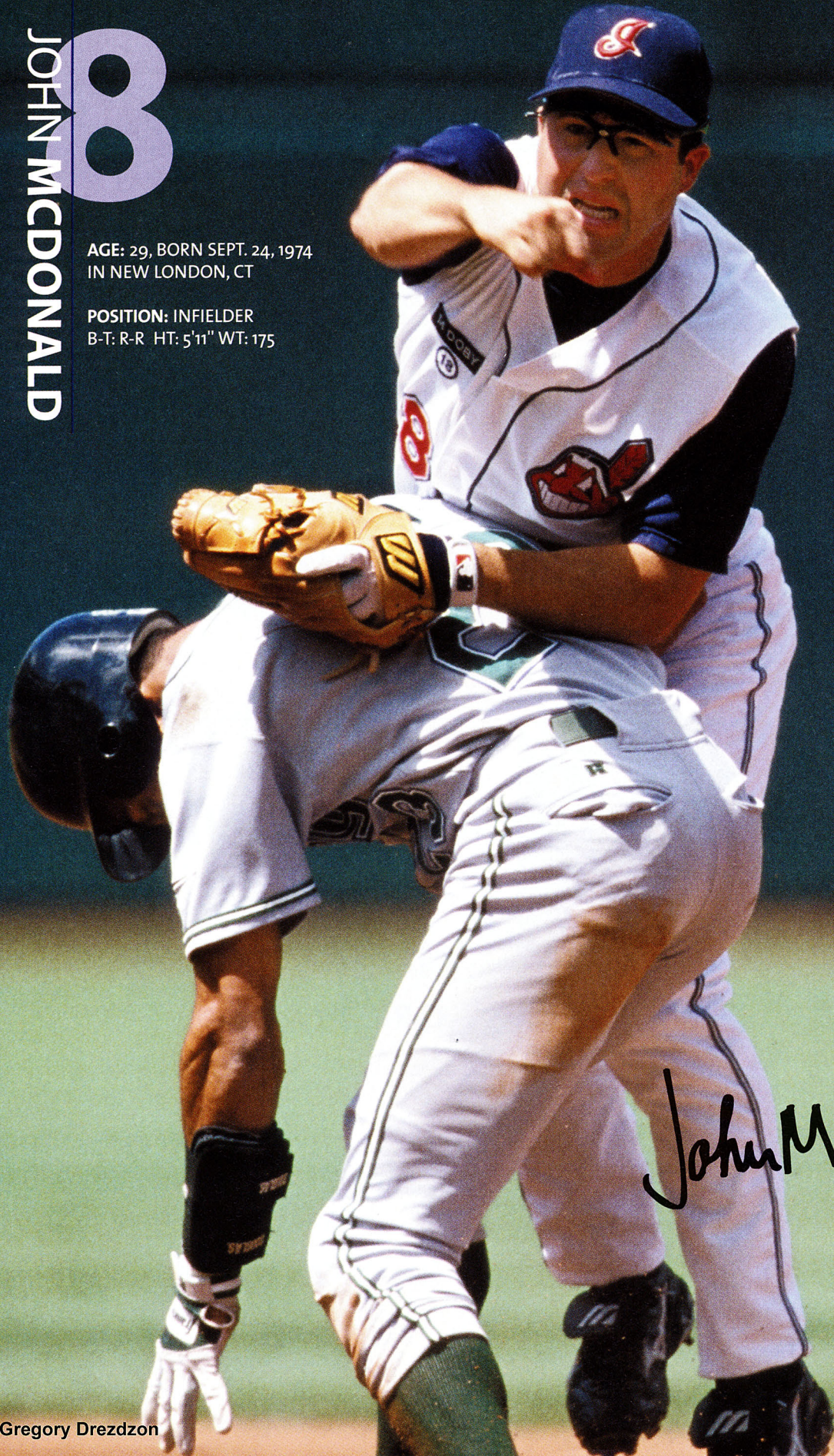
*Victor Martinez*  
#41



# JOHN McDONALD 8

AGE: 29, BORN SEPT. 24, 1974  
IN NEW LONDON, CT

POSITION: INFIELDER  
B-T: R-R HT: 5'11" WT: 175



John McDonald



LOU MERLONI

12

AGE: 33, BORN APRIL 6, 1971  
IN FRAMINGHAM, MA

POSITION: INFIELDER  
B-T: R-R HT: 5'10" WT: 200

*Lou Merloni*  
#17

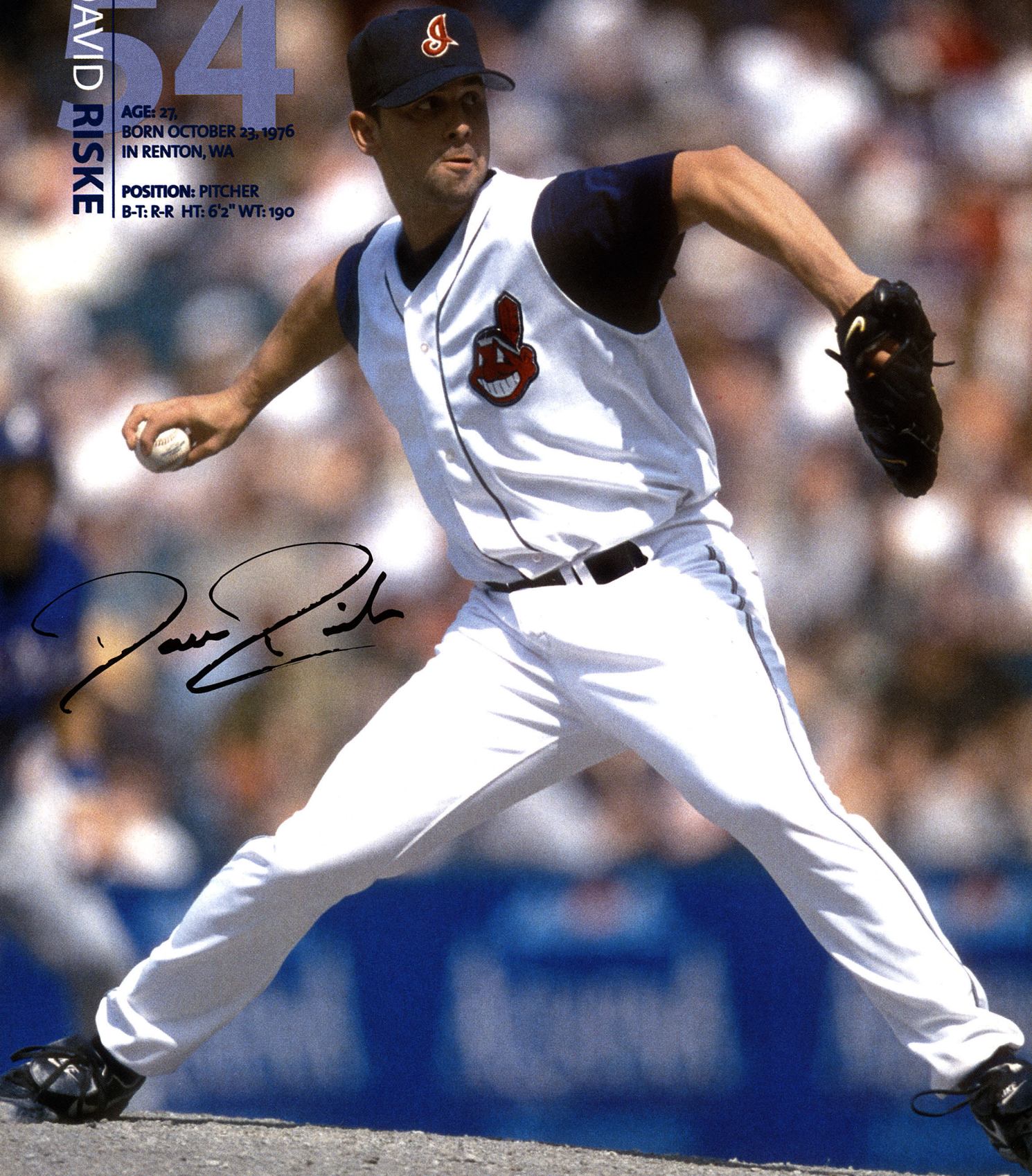
Photo: Gregory Drezdron



DAVID  
RISKE

54  
AGE: 27,  
BORN OCTOBER 23, 1976  
IN RENTON, WA

POSITION: PITCHER  
B-T: R-R HT: 6'2" WT: 190







C.C. SABATHIA

AGE: 23, BORN JULY 21, 1980  
IN VALLEJO, CA

POSITION: PITCHER  
B-T: L-L HT: 6'7" WT: 290

52

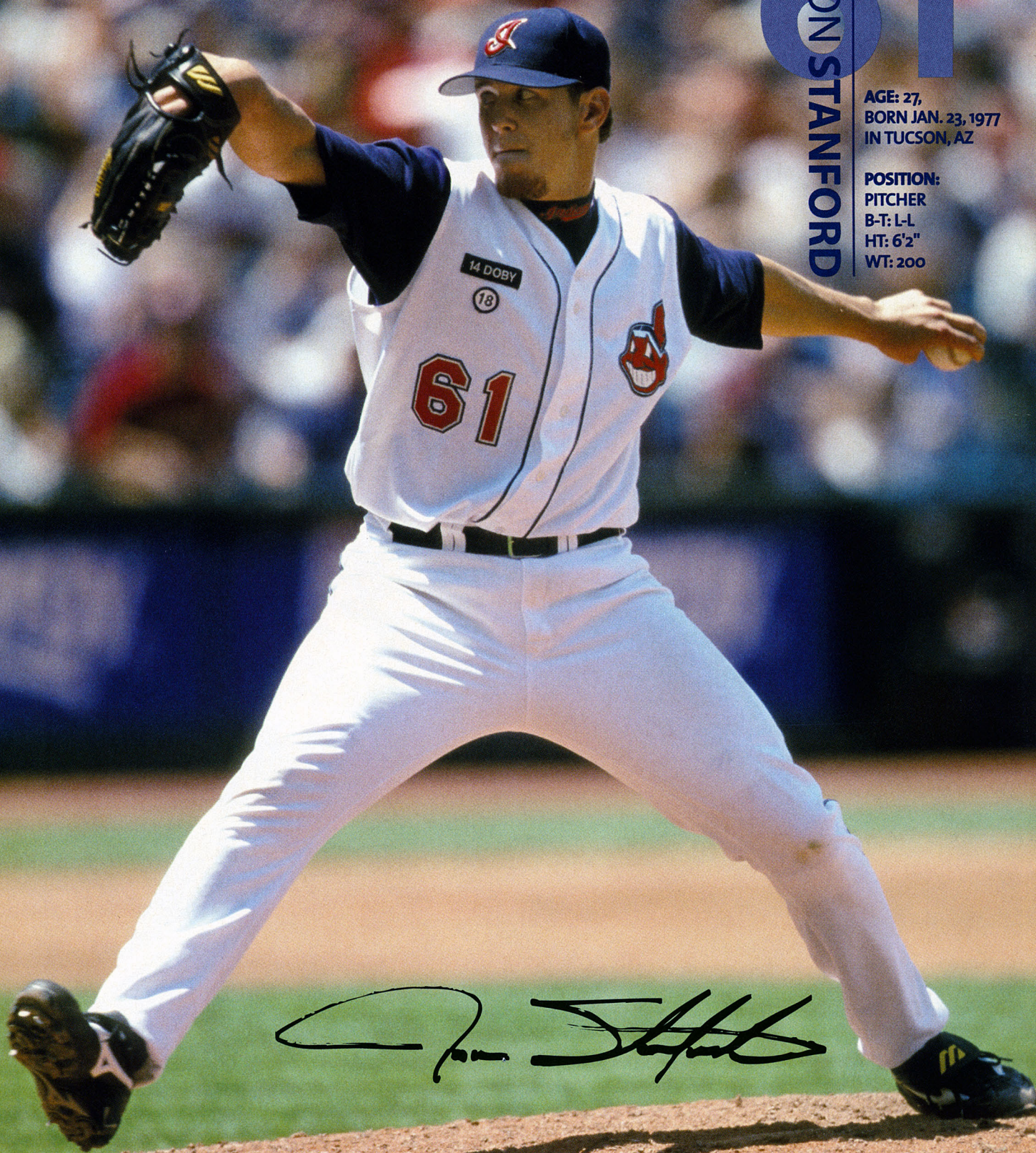
*[Handwritten signature]* 52



# 61 JASON STANFORD

AGE: 27,  
BORN JAN. 23, 1977  
IN TUCSON, AZ

POSITION:  
PITCHER  
B-T: L-L  
HT: 6'2"  
WT: 200





# SCOTT STEWART

AGE: 28,  
BORN AUGUST 14, 1975  
IN BROCKTON, MA

POSITION: PITCHER  
B-T: R-L HT: 6'2" WT: 225





OMAR VIZQUEL

AGE: 36,  
BORN APRIL 24, 1967  
IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA

POSITION: INFIELDER  
B-T: S-R HT: 5'9" WT: 185

3

*Omar Vizquel 13*



# JAKE WESTBROOK

AGE: 26, BORN SEPT. 29, 1977  
IN ATHENS, GA

POSITION: PITCHER  
B-T: R-R HT: 6'3" WT: 215

*Jake Westbrook*